

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 02420 291253Z

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SUBJ: SWEDISH KING'S VISIT DRAMATIZES SCANDINAVIAN

TIES

SUMMARY: THE NOVEMBER 19-22 VISIT OF SWEDEN'S CARL XVI GUSTAF DRAMATIZED FINLAND'S INTEGRAL LINKS WITH THE LEADING NATION IN SCANDINAVIA. IT WAS ONLY SLIGHTLY MARRED BY THE SIMULTANEOUS PUBLICATION OF AN ARTICLE IN A RIGHT-WING SWEDISH PAPER ACCUSING THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND OF DIRECTING THE SOCIALIZATION OF FINLAND. END SUMMARY.

1. TRADITIONAL POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE MARKED THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO FINLAND BY SWEDISH MONARCH IN 22 YEARS. CARL XVI GUSTAF ARRIVED IN HELSINKI ABOARD THE DESTROYER "HALLAND", THE FLAGSHIP OF A CONCURRENT NAVAL VISIT. HE LAID WREATHS, VISITED PARLIAMENT AND THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, MET WITH LOCALSWEDISH AND SWEDO-FINNISH COMMUNITIES, TOURED TURKU AND OPENED EXPANSION OF SAAB-VALMET AUTOMOBILE FACTORY IN UUSI KAUPUNKI. IN HIS REMARKS AT THE PRESIDENT'S BANQUET THE EVENING OF HIS ARRIVAL

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PAGE 02 HELSIN 02420 291253Z

THE YOUNG KING SPOKE WARMLY OF THE CLOSE TIES

BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES BUT, IN KEEPING WITH HIS STRICTLY CEREMONIAL ROLE, HIS REMARKS BROKE NO NEW GROUND.

2. THE FINNISH MEDIA COVERED THE VISIT ASSIDUOUSLY AND THE KING'S MODESTY AND FRIENDLINESS OUTWEIGHED THE MEANINGLESS TRIVIALITIES BREATHLESSLY SERVED UP BY THE COMPETITIVE POPULAR PRESS. THE DEPTH AND BREADTH OF THE TIES BETWEEN FINLAND AND SWEDEN DO NOT SEEM TO NEED THE FREQUENT DRAMATIZATION THAT CHARACTERIZES FINLAND'S RELATIONSHIPS WITH ITS BIGGER NEIGHBOR TO THE EAST, BUT THE KING'S VISIT SERVED AS A USEFUL REMINDER OF THE CLOSENESS AND SIMILARITIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. THE VISIT WAS NOT WITHOUT ITS MOMENTS OF FUN. THE KING'S PARTY ON THE LAST EVENING OF HIS STAY WAS A "SWINGING" AFFAIR. PRESIDENT KEKKONEN ENJOYED THE COMPANY OF SWEDISH POP-SINGER LILL-BABS AND, TO THE DISMAY OF THE LESS HARDY DANCED, DRANK AND SANG SONGS UNTIL FOUR IN THE MORNING. AT THE AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONY THE KING WAS PRESENTED WITH AN ORIGINAL DRAWING BY FINLAND'S LEADING CARTOONIST SHOWING CARL-GUSTAF AND KEKKONEN DECKED OUT IN MEDALS AND SASHES TRAILED BY FAMILIAR CARICATURES OF PRIME MINISTER SORSA, FONMIN KARJALAINEN AND FINMIN VIROLAINEN -- ALL POTENTIAL CANDIDATES TO SUCCEED KEKKONEN. SORSA IS SAYING, "SAY, WE'VE GOT A FULL HOUSE: TWO KINGS AND THREE KNAVES."

3. APART FROM SCATTERED LEFT-WING SNIPING ONLY SOUR NOTE DURING KING'S VISIT WAS PUBLICATION BY RIGHT-WING SWEDISH NEWSPAPER SVENSKA DAGBLADET ACCUSING SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO FINLAND V.S. STEPANOV OF DIRECTING A PLAN TO CONVERT FINLAND TO A "SOCIALIST STATE". ALTHOUGH ARTICLE CONTAINED LITTLE MORE THAN FAMILIAR AIMS OF FINNISH COMMUNIST PARTY, FINNISH FOREIGN MINISTRY IMMEDIATELY DENOUNCED IT AS "FANTASTIC AND IMAGINARY" PARTICULARLY WITH REGARE TO ITS CLAIM "THAT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS AMBASSADOR WOULD INTERFERE IN FINLAND'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS." AFTER THE PREDICTABLE FLOW OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HELSIN 02420 291253Z

EDITORIALS SENSITIVE ABOUT THE ARTICLE'S POSSIBLE "DAMAGE" TO FINNISH-SOVIET RELATIONS AND A PROTEST TO THE NEWSPAPER BY FINNISH AMBASSADOR IN STOCKHOLM MAX JAKOBSON, SVENSKA DAGBLADET MADE AN EDITORIAL APOLOGY ON NOVEMBER 26. KREHBIEL

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